

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A communication apparatus in which a communication channel and a control channel are exclusively assigned to a radio communication resource to be used, said apparatus comprising:

means for executing data transmission/reception using the communication channel;

means for periodically executing an inquiry scan;

user interface means for setting preferentiality related to one of the data transmission/reception and the inquiry scan in accordance with a user operation; and

means for controlling an execution time interval of the inquiry scan on the basis of a setting result of said user interface means.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said user interface means sets one of a first mode of preferentially executing the data transmission/reception and a second mode of preferentially executing the inquiry scan, and

said controlling means controls the execution time interval of the inquiry scan in accordance with a mode set by said user interface means.

9. (Previously Presented) A communication apparatus capable of being driven by a battery and simultaneously connecting to a plurality of remote terminals, said apparatus comprising:

means for executing transmission processing of a terminal search message for searching for a remote terminal or terminal search wait processing for detecting a terminal search message for searching for a remote terminal and responding thereto;

means for detecting a residual capacity of the battery; and

means for dynamically controlling an execution timing or executing time interval of the transmission processing of the terminal search message or the terminal search wait processing on the basis of a detection result of said detection means.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

means for determining whether a current operating power supply is the battery or an external power supply; and

means for dynamically controlling the execution timing or execution time interval of the transmission processing of the terminal search message or the terminal search wait processing on the basis of a determination result of said determining means.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A control method for a communication apparatus in which a communication channel and a control channel are exclusively assigned to a radio communication resource to be used, said method comprising the steps of:

executing data transmission/reception using the communication channel and periodically executing an inquiry scan;

setting preferentiality related to one of the data transmission/reception and the inquiry scan in accordance with a user operation; and

controlling an execution time interval of the inquiry scan on the basis of a setting result in said setting step.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

setting one of a first mode of preferentially executing the data transmission/reception and a second mode of preferentially executing the inquiry scan; and

controlling the execution time interval of the inquiry scan in accordance with a mode set in said setting step.

15. (Previously Presented) A control method for a communication apparatus capable of being driven by a battery and simultaneously connecting to a plurality of remote terminals, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting a residual capacity of the battery; and

dynamically controlling an execution timing or execution time interval of transmission processing of a terminal search message for searching for a remote terminal or terminal search wait processing for detecting a terminal search message for searching for a remote terminal and responding thereto on the basis of a detection result in said detecting step.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of: determining whether a current operating power supply is the battery or an external power supply; and

dynamically controlling the execution timing or execution time interval of the transmission processing of the terminal search message or the terminal search wait processing on the basis of a determination result in said determining step.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the time interval is prolonged with a decrease of the residual capacity of the battery when the current operating power supply is the battery, and the time interval is set to a default value when the current operating power supply is the external power supply.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the time interval is prolonged with a decrease of the residual capacity of the battery when the current operating power supply is the battery, and the time interval is set to a default value when the current operating power supply is the external power supply.